VITAL STATISTICS OF CALIFORNIA

1981

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THE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM IN CALIFORNIA

STATE REGISTRAR: DIRECTOR OF CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (July 1, 1973–June 30, 1978, State Department of Health; prior to July 1, 1973, State Department of Public Health)

- Maintains a permanent central registry for vital statistics records of events occurring in California. Provides certified copies of records of Births, Deaths, and Marriages since 1905. Provides searches of the statewide indexes for final decrees of dissolution of marriage or nullity granted since January 1, 1962; and for petitions filed for dissolution of marriage, nullity or legal separation filed between January 1, 1966 and December 31, 1977.[1]

- Develops vital statistics for use in cooperative federal, state, and local health programs, and for medical, demographic, and social research.[2]

- Prepares statistical analyses and summaries of vital statistics for use by the Department of Health Services, other agencies, and the public. The data are used in medical science, public health, demography, social welfare, population estimation, business forecasting, and the social sciences.[2]

- Publishes periodic reports of vital statistics in California. (Reports and information back to the year 1880 are available.)[2]

- Develops forms, standards, and guidelines for registration of all vital statistics events occurring in the State of California.[1, 2]

- Cooperates with other State Registrars in the provision of vital statistics for the United States. Provides records and information to the National Center for Health Statistics.[1, 2]

1 Major responsibility delegated to the Vital Statistics Section, DHS.

2 Major responsibility delegated to the Health Demographics Unit of the Center for Health Statistics, DHS.

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PREFACE

This annual vital statistics report contains information on California's vital events and also trend data for selected topics. The purpose of the report is to present information which can be used as a basis for health policy decisions, planning, and epidemiologic research; it is also designed to provide California's governmental agencies, businesses, industries, and citizens with information on the vital statistics of their State.

The sources of the data included in this report are certificates of live birth, death, fetal death, registry of marriage, and reports of dissolution granted, which occurred during 1981, and which were registered with the Department of Health Services. The 1981 population estimates, prepared by the Department of Finance, are included so that crude rates can be calculated when desired.

The section entitled "Sources, Quality, Definitions, and Limitations of Data," located in the back of this publication, gives information needed for correct interpretation and analysis of the data contained in the report. It also contains a description of the vital statistics registration system in California and the definitions used to calculate the rates and ratios used throughout the report.

NOTE: Population estimates used as denominators for calculating rates of vital events in this publication were prepared by the Population Research Unit of the California Department of Finance. The estimates employed include the resident military and civilian populations, as of July 1, for each year.

The April 1, 1980 Census counts have shown that previous population estimates for the years 1970–1980 were too low. The Population Research Unit has prepared revised July 1 estimates for the decade, which are adjusted upward to the 1980 Census. All vital rates in this publication were calculated with the new population estimates in the denominators. Consequently, they may differ from, and generally are lower than, rates previously published for the years 1970 through 1980.

SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

Data not available	– – –
Category not applicable	. . .
Quantity zero	–
Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05	0.0

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